

Good Samaritan News

Sunday, February 5, 2012

From the Church of the Good Samaritan in Brunswick, Maine

An ecumenical ministry with a base in the Anglican Tradition

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The Church of the Good Samaritan Since 2001 - We Welcome You!

Our community began in 2001. It was started by a group of about six men and women from various religious traditions. We continue that ministry to this day. Come ... join us! Meditation 3:30 p.m. in the chapel — Pilgrim House; service 4:00 p.m. Pilgrim House is the brick building adjacent to First Parish Church UCC in Brunswick. If you can't attend, join us in prayer from your location at 4:00 p.m. EST. Please let us know your email address—we can send this newsletter to you each week.

Mission Statement: We are a loving and diverse faith-based community that comes from a variety of traditions. We gather in Christ's name to seek to do God's Will and bring love and grace into the world. We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for spiritual healing and growth for all who wish to join us. We offer social action, support, and education to the greater community. An integral part of our mission is to break down barriers of prejudice and misunderstanding while offering a welcoming hand to all who seek inclusion. We welcome you!

Adjusting to World Changes

There is a lot going on in the world, is there not? Economic challenges, many people suffering and struggling, and others seeming to increase their super rich portfolios. In the midst of this, we may feel overwhelmed with so many bits of information or misinformation coming at us from the media that we do not know quite what to do as Christians. Who to believe; vote for, what to do to make a difference in the world. We all need to feel as if we have contributed.

As Christians in the world, we are called to help those less fortunate than ourselves, to feed the poor, to care for those who are hurting, mentally, physically, and spiritually. I read a story in the AARP magazine recently (stop chuckling about my reading that!); about a woman in her late 60's who ended up living in her car with her two dogs. She had lost her job due to the real estate downturn; and lost her home as a result. She was living in a tiny apartment with her daughter; her two large dogs still slept in her car for lack of room; she was working two jobs and had gone back to school at 70 to get an MBA. Somehow, the faith of this woman and the support around her enable her to get on her feet and re-create her life. Any of us can have the furniture knocked out from under us due to financial problems, a divorce or major loss in our lives, or illness. I have seen people go from activity and a sense of security in their lives to wondering where they will go next and what they will do. Some wonder how they will feed themselves, let alone their loved ones, including pets.

So, what can we do, how can we help? The first thing we can do is look around us each day. Who do we know that is hurting, ill, struggling? When was the last time we reached out to them? Pick up the phone. Are there organizations nearby that we can give our time or talent to? There is always the donation by mail to groups that do a lot of good in the world.

Giving of ourselves knows no other replacement, however. That is why scripture tells us: "it is more blessed to give than to receive". We must all in humility give, and when we have a need, receive. That is our calling as Christ's own. ++++++Amen! Bishop David

SPRING RETREAT 2012: Postponed

The spring retreat is postponed. We will keep you posted. Due to economics, most members of the EACA cannot afford to travel or come. We will plan a local retreat. Let us now forget the importance of retreat; of prayer, quiet and contemplation.

Good Samaritan Prayer List: Please send requests to cogs@gwi.net.

Prayer for this week: God, I pray for the sensitivity to love and reach out to others, and to be of service in the world. Remove and self-consciousness in me that I may reach out to others. We pray for: (Send us *updates to this list*)
Sick/recovering: All dealing with natural disasters, hunger, and violence in the United States and the world, and those dealing with addictions, especially smoking; for the sick and suffering: Moni, Santi, Anne, Ruth, Susan, Terese, Mona, Roy, Maryanne, John, Diane, Diana, Jeff, David+, Rudi, Tom, Jane, Cello, Maryanne, John Matt, Lucy, Joyce, Anne, Mary, Vicki, +Rusty, Susan+, William, Bill+, Barry+, Richard, Kristin and her mother, Trudy, Diane, Martin, Bryan, Sally, Joey, Janice, Ursula, Thom, Bruce, Roger, Steve, Jessi, Tom, **Discernment/ transition:** George, Marty, Mark, Bruce, Patrick, Kristin, Susan+, Bryan, Diana, Rhonda, and the EACA. **For all those grieving:** the Mariners, Edwards, and Johnsons. **Died:** Norman Roy, Sandra, John, Gene, Teresa. **Thanksgiving:** for all those who pray with us around the globe this week. **All those traveling.** We pray for all those grieving and alone. *We make the sign of the cross and ask God for deeper faith, enduring hope, and divine love.*

Annual Meeting Sunday March 4th

Please plan to attend our annual meeting, planned tentatively for Sunday March 4th directly after our 4 p.m. evening prayer service. The meeting should begin at about 4:45 p.m. in the chapel. We encourage all those who do not, or are not able to attend our Sunday services on a regular basis to attend, or give us some input as to what we are doing, where we have been the past year, and where you would like to see us head in the coming year.

Support the Aids Ride: The United Nations' (UN) World AIDS Day was on December 1 and is each year, to honor the victims of the AIDS pandemic and focus attention on the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS related conditions. Peter Hartikka, son of Sally, our volunteer secretary, is still seeking support for a bicycle ride he will be making in June 2012 to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. The fundraiser is designed to advance their shared interests in ending the pandemic and human suffering caused by AIDS. This will be a roughly 550 mile ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles and will take a week. If you would like to support this cause and celebrate World AIDS Day, you can do so by accessing Peter's link to the Aids/Life?Cycle organization, where you can donate as well as keep up-to-date with latest information on the ride. His site: <http://www.tofighthiv.org/goto/sisu>

A Finished Heart

A Finished Heart is a one-man dramatic performance of story and poetry with music, based on conversations between a dying man and his caregiver. The 75-minute piece is followed by audience conversation with the author and facilitated discussion as appropriate to the venue. It is most often performed with pianist, Martin Perry, for whom the score was written.

These performances are free and open to the public:

- Wednesday, February 22, 2012, **6:00 p.m.** [University of New England](#), Ludcke Auditorium, Portland, Maine, [Martin Perry](#).
- Friday, March 16, 2012, [Congregation Bet Ha'am](#), 81 Westbrook St, South Portland, ME, **8:30 p.m.** with pianist, [Martin Perry](#).
- Thursday, May 10, 2012, [Rockland Public Library](#), Rockland, Maine, **6:00 p.m.** (composer's recorded version of score).

I am thrilled to announce that *A Finished Heart* has been selected for inclusion in the **New England** *A Finished Heart* are available at www.afinishedheart.com.

Join others and us around the world in praying and reading the daily Lectionary Readings:

Sun 5 Feb 5	am: 93,96 pm:34	Gen 24:50-67	2 Tim 2:14-21	Mark 10:13-22
Mon Feb 6	am: 80 pm: 77, 79	Gen 25:19-34	Heb 13:1-16	John 7:37-52
Tue Feb 7	am: 78:1-39 pm: 78:40-72	Gen 26:1-6, 12-33	Heb 13:17-25	John 7:53-8:11
Wed Feb 8	am: 119:97-120 pm:81, 82	Gen 27:1-29	Rom 12:1-8	John 8:12-20
Thur Feb 9	am: 146-147 pm: 83, 85, 86	Gen 27:30-45	Rom 12:9-21	John 8:21-32
Fri Feb 10	am: 88 pm: 91, 92	Gen 27:46-28:4,10-22	Rom 13:1-14	John 8:33-47
Sat Feb 11	am: 87, 90 pm: 136	Gen 29:1-20	Rom 14:1-23	John 8:47-59

UPCOMING: On Wednesday, February 22, we will have an Ash Wednesday service; and a Good Friday observance on April 6th. Both will take place at 4 p.m.

Thanks GWI! Thanks to the generosity of Great Works Internet we pay only a nominal fee for our email, web site, and Internet access. Please use Great Works Internet!!

Calendar of Worship Ministry Assignments 2011

3:30/ 4:00	2/12 Epip 6	2/19 Last Epip	2/26 Lent 1	3/4 Lent 2	3/11 Lent 3	3/18 Lent 4	3/25 Lent 5	4/1 Palm Sun	4/8 Easter Sun	4/15 Easter 2
Lead	EU DB	EP LUC	EP DEB	EP Kar Annual Mtg	EU DB	EU DB	EP Deb	EU DB/ Karn	EU DB	EU DB
Acite	Deb	Xx	Xx	Xx	Deb	Deb	Xx	Deb	Deb	Deb
Refr	Deb	Luc	Scott	None	DB	Ray				
Mus	Ray	Ray	Lucy	Ray	Ray	Ray	Ray	Lucy	Lucy	Ray

QM-Quiet Meditation PL/CM-Pot Luck/Community Mtg EP- Evening Prayer CNL: Council Hlms: Highlands Lodge Living Room Services are at 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Quiet meditation begins at 3:30 p.m

Our web ministry is strong. Thousands visit it each week, and read our newsletter. Please join them! We welcome our new and returning members at our 4:00 p.m. service on Sundays.

Thanks to First Parish Church (UCC) for shelter, space for an office, and to worship! Donations needed at this time. Our ministry of pastoral care, hospital visitation, prayer, weekly services, newsletters, and web presence continues to be very active. Please consider supporting our ministry. Please send your donations in to our office address. They are fully tax-deductible. Thanks to John Fischer, our dedicated web master, who has completed our new website. Please do not wear scented lotions, perfumes, etc. to church services or events.